

SPECTRUM

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Message from the Minister – Doug Main

A number of different events and initiatives have taken place over the past few months, all of which underscore the need for continuing activity in the field of multiculturalism and the widespread interest of Albertans in multicultural issues.

We have received a great deal of input concerning the Alberta Multicultural Commission's report "Multiculturalism: Focus for the 90's." All of this is valuable. Much of it focussed on the three priorities identified in the report: Integration, institutional access and public education. Several issues were raised, including streamlining the relationship between the Commission and the Alberta Cultural Heritage Council, inter-governmental co-operation to ensure that government

can provide more effective services to all Albertans.

While there is criticism that the report and its recommendations are too general, I believe the report points the way to the future of multiculturalism in Alberta. It identifies the current state of multiculturalism in our

province and reflects through the public hearing process, the thinking and feeling of all Albertans. The report is flexible enough in its approach to allow us an opportunity to do many positive things. Members of the Commission continue to meet with organizations, such as provincial

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Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, Doug Main, receives a pin from Barbara Schacter, B'nai B'rith Canada's League for Human Rights

Chairman's Message – Steve Zarusky

As Chairman of the Alberta Multicultural Commission, since June of last year, I've travelled widely across the province. This has given me an opportunity to meet many of you and receive your comments on the role of the Commission and in furthering multicultural ideas and practices.

Between June and February, I've had the pleasure of attending over 40 different events and functions. These

ranged from opening Edmonton's annual Heritage Festival to receiving the Consul General of the Philippines and paying a visit to Ukraine as a member of the Caucus Committee for Agriculture. This brought home to me the living truth about multiculturalism in Alberta and reinforced my belief that Alberta's large and diverse ethno-cultural population has much to offer.

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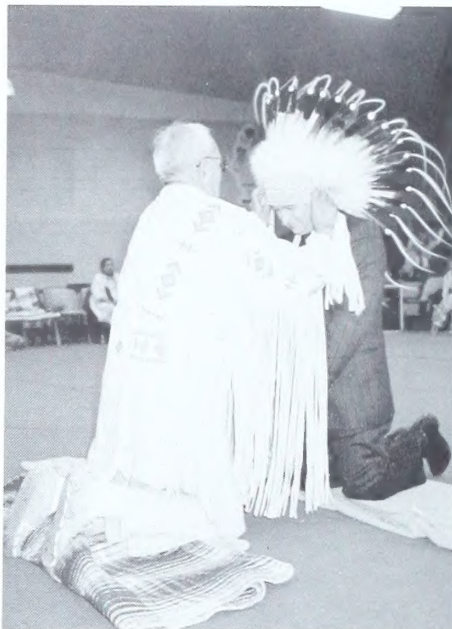
Steve Zarusky

Zarusky made Chief Three Landings

On December 23, 1989, on the Blood Indian Reserve at Standoff, Alberta, Steve Zarusky was made Chief Three Landings.

It is a Native custom to name individuals after past events that have special significance; it is also a custom for a chief to transfer his name to another person as a sign of respect. Chief Percy Oldshoe of the Blood band received the name Chief Three Landings after his first trip on an airplane, during which he landed on three different islands.

At the ceremony two days before Christmas, Chief Oldshoe transferred his name and a ceremonial war bonnet to Steve Zarusky to honour his role as Chairman of the Alberta Multicultural Commission.



Steve Zarusky is made Chief Three Landings by Chief Percy Oldshoe of the Blood band.

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There has been a great deal of interest in the Commission's report "Multiculturalism: Focus for the 90's" which was released last October. In my briefing sessions I visited Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Red Deer, Fort McMurray and Smoky Lake where I enjoyed discussing strategies for implementing the recommendations of the report. I look forward to hearing from you on any other suggestions.

Since the report was issued, there have been several events that underscore the continuing need for ongoing multicultural education and communication. One was the controversy about whether Sikhs that join the RCMP be allowed to wear turbans; another was the incident with lapel pins which implied that white people in our province are increasingly a minority subject to discrimination, and most recently the issuance of a calendar mimicking Sikhs as RCMP. Other events further afield also reinforced the need for ethno-

cultural understanding. Ethnic and religious violence in various parts of the world, from Kashmir to Armenia, all point to the ongoing need for tolerance and goodwill among all peoples. The future of multiculturalism in Alberta depends on all of us making efforts to ensure that the contributions made to our society by people from all backgrounds are recognized and appreciated.

In this regard, I am pleased to have the support and advice of both new and returning Commission members. The members of the Commission are Helen Yau, Laurent Lamoureux, Adolf Kulpe, Orest Olinek and Manuel da Costa. I welcome their commitment to the cause of multiculturalism and look forward to working with them in the months ahead.

I was especially pleased to be made a chief of the Blood Indian Band on December 23, 1989, at Standoff. It was a great honour and one that I deeply appreciate.

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umbrella groups and multicultural societies, to receive further input into ways the report can be implemented.

Alberta is a province built on immigration and for us to continue to grow, immigrants will continue to play an important role. This will undoubtedly place pressures on us all. However, the challenge is to make new Albertans feel welcome in our society and to make current citizens aware of the contributions these people have to offer. It is going to take a long, continuous process of education, communication and participation to bring about the understanding and acceptance for us to adjust to our ever changing society.

New initiatives will be needed and the government is acting on these, based on recommendations in the report. We would like to double the present size of the Commission to gain more insight, expertise and commitment. We recognize the need for education and are exploring ways to multiculturalize the educational curriculum in the province. We want to work with the Alberta Human Rights Commission and Alberta Career Development and Employment on a campaign to increase awareness of multiculturalism and multicultural issues.

In addition, we appreciate the need to help new arrivals in Alberta become integrated into our multicultural society while encouraging them to preserve and promote their ethnocultural heritage. This means ensuring that they are aware of, and have equal access to, the institutions and organizations that can assist them in building a new life here. The quicker new Albertans feel at home, on an equal footing with every other individual, the faster they can help make our society stronger by contributing as much as they can to our rich and diverse cultural and economic life.

Board Members appointed to Alberta Multicultural Commission

On October 1, 1989, Doug Main, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, reappointed Adolf Kulpe and Laurent Lamoureux, two past members of the Alberta Multicultural Commission, to another one year term, to expire October 1, 1990. He also appointed Orest Olinek, presently chairman of the Alberta Cultural Heritage Council, to a one year term as vice-chairman of the Commission. Helen Yau has been appointed as a new member, and Manuel da Costa, Executive Director and Assistant Deputy Minister, has been appointed as the Commission's secretary.

Helen Yau is program director, producer and chairman of public relations for Calgary Chinese Community Broadcasting. She has wide experience as a researcher, finance officer and realtor in addition to her experience in television, radio and lifeskills counselling.

Adolf Kulpe is a Medicine Hat businessman. He immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1954. He is past president of the German Canadian Harmony Club and a past member of the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism. For three years he was a director of the Alberta Cultural Heritage Foundation.

Laurent Lamoureux is the manager of the Town of McLennan and a lifetime resident of the Smoky River district of northwestern Alberta. He is a past president of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and a past director of the Local Government Administrators Association of Alberta.

Orest Olinek is chairman of the Provincial Coordinating Committee of the Alberta Cultural Heritage Council. A teacher and educational administrator by profession, he is



Alberta Multicultural Commission members met in Edmonton in early February to plan strategy for the new year, and pose for a group photo. Left to right standing: Adolf Kulpe; Orest Olinek; Laurent Lamoureux; Helen Yau and Manuel da Costa. Seated is Commission Chairman – Steve Zarusky.

currently working as an education consultant with Alberta Education. Manuel da Costa is Executive Director of the Alberta Multicultural Commission and Assistant Deputy Minister for Culture and Multiculturalism. His work experience includes advocacy,

program, policy and legislation development in the social, educational and cultural fields. Before his current appointment he served as Acting Director General for the Multiculturalism Sector Department of Secretary of State in Ottawa.

Alberta Multicultural Commission Offices

EDMONTON

2nd floor, 12431 Stony Plain Road
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 3N3
Phone: 427-2927

CALGARY

3rd floor, 525-11th Avenue, S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2R 0C9
Phone: 297-8407

RED DEER

3rd floor, Parkland Square
4901-48th Street
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 6M4
Phone: 340-5257

LETHBRIDGE

326 Administration Building
Bag Service 3014
909-3rd Avenue, North
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1H 2G5
Phone: 381-5236

FORT MCMURRAY

535 Provincial Building
9915 Franklin Avenue
Fort McMurray, Alberta
T9H 2K4
Phone: 743-7472

ST. PAUL

316 Provincial Building
5025-49th Avenue
St. Paul, Alberta
T0A 3A0
Phone: 645-6328

Cultural Heritage Division
2nd Floor, 12431 Stony Plain Road
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5N 3N3

We welcome your feedback on this publication. Please send your comments to:

SPECTRUM
Alberta Multicultural Commission
3rd Floor
12431 Stony Plain Road
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 3N3

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